Message Text

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY; USMTN ALSO FOR MISSION; FAS FOR OYLOE, RIESZ, STARKEY, STR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, GW
SUBJECT: RECLASSIFICATION OF EC TARIFF NO. 1602 (POULTRY MEAT)

REF: BONN 12604

1. AGATTACHE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM STAATS-SEKRETAER ROHR, MINAG, CONCERNING OUR PROTEST OF THE EC ACTION TO RECLASSIFY BTN 1602 PREPARED AND COOKED POULTRY.

QUOTE DEAR MR. ANDERSON:

IN YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 19, YOU POINTED OUT TO ME THE US GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTION TO THE EC COMMISSION'S INTENDED RECLASSIFICATION OF TARIFF CATEGORY 1602 WHICH WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE THE EFFECT OF EXCLUDING UNCOOKED PREPARED POULTRY MEAT PRODUCTS FROM THE PRESENT GATT-BOUND DUTY. WE ALREADY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER. THE FOLLOWING WILL INFORM YOU OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS: ON JULY 11, THE EC POULTRY AND EGG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THE COMMISSION'S DRAFT ORDINANCE IN BRUSSELS. A MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATES AGREED TO A TARIFF RE-

CLASSIFICATION. BECAUSE OF MY INTERVENTION TO THE EC COMMISSION, A FINAL AGREEMENT ON THIS DRAFT ORDINANCE HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL AFTERTHE SUMMER HOLIDAYS. IN THE MEANTIME, MY MINISTRY AND THE OTHER INVOLVED FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO EXAMINE THE INTENDED MEASURES ON A LEGAL AND TECHNICAL BASIS. I URGED MEMBERS OF MY STAFF TO USE STRICT MEASURES IN THEIR JUDGMENT AND TO ESPECIALLY ALSO CONSIDER LEGAL AND TRADE POLICY IMPLICATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH GATT. MAINTAINING A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR COUNTRY, AS YOU KNOW, HAS ALWAYS BEEN OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO ME.

SINCERELY, SGD. STAATSSEKRETAER ROHR. END QUOTE.

2. OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IS THAT A RECLASSIFICATION OF BTN 1602 WILL LIKELY TAKE PLACE SOMETIME THIS FALL. TURKEY PRODUCTION (SLAUGHTERING) IN THE FRG IS UP OVER 30 PERCENT AND PRICES ARE WEAKENING A LITTLE. BY FALL THE MARKET WILL LIKELY BE OVER-SUPPLIED AND PRICES EVEN LOWER. THIS WILL CREATE DOMESTIC PRESSURES FOR A RECLASSIFICATION. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE FRENCH NOW FAVOR RECLASSIFICATION BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN REASSURED THAT MCA'S WILL NOT BE APPLIED TO BTN 1602.

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